



THE

KNIGHT



#55+56

VOLUME 10 Nos. 1 & 2 The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. FRANK PASSIC, Editor. Summer & Fall '87

THE KLAIPĖDA LIBERATION MEDAL STORY

COMBINED ISSUE

We are combining the June-July and the August-September issues of The Knight. Our director, Robert Douchis, was on vacation in California during the month of July and had an exchange student from France in his home during the month of August, and was unable to devote any time in his busy schedule for this period, to The Knight.

Bob also has had to handle the membership renewals, donations, etc. and of course this has taken time.

We are sorry for the delay in this issue, and thought it would be best to double-up since we were so far behind already.

The next issue of The Knight will be dated October-November, and you should be receiving it the first week of November in the mail.

--F. Passic, EDITOR.

TYPEWRITER UPDATE

PAGE 2...

By Vincent W. Alones and Henry L. Gaidis

The Klaipėda Liberation Medal (Klaipėdos Sukilimo Ženkia) was awarded by the Lithuanian Minor Liberation Committee (Vyr. Maž. Lietuvos Gelbejimo Komitetas) and therefore is not an official decoration of the Lithuanian government or of the Lithuanian National Guard (Lietuvos Šaulių Sąjunga). Yet if one examines the history of the liberation of Lithuanian Minor and Klaipėda, it's principal city, there is very little doubt that it was intended to honor the members of the National Guard.

Although this is an unofficial National Guard decoration, the authors have taken the liberty to place this award under that of the Šaulių decorations, as it was the intention of the original committee to honor the members of this organization.

Historically, the seaport of Klaipėda was captured by the German Teutonic Knights during the 13th century and renamed Memelburg. Since that time, this major Baltic seaport city and

it's surrounding territory has been fought over by Lithuanians, Germans, and Russians. At the beginning of World War I, Lithuanian Minor was part of East Prussia, and the portion north of the Nemunas River was known as Memelland. With the defeat of Germany and the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II, the Klaipėda Territory (Klaipėdos Kraštas) was placed under the supervision of a French military commissioner (Petsine), appointed by the Allies.

Although the Allies had agreed during the 1919 Paris Peace Conference that the Klaipėda Territory should be returned to Lithuania, based upon historical ties, ethnic composition (rural territory mostly Lithuanian, city mostly German), and the necessity for Lith-



Klaipėda Liberation Medal, OBVERSE

Continued on page 4...

2. MEMEL MEDAL UPDATE

By Algirdas Kapalas

I have read your article about Karl Goetz "Return of Memel" medal in the last issue of The Knight.

The inscription on the obverse of the medal has to be read from 10 o'clock on. Then you get: "Memelburg Deutschordensburg," which means, "Memelburg, castle of



the Teutonic Order." Memelburg was the name of the castle which the Teutonic Knights built in 1252 as an important stronghold linking their Prussian and Livonian possessions. Memel is the German name of the Nemunas River, as well as of the city of Klaipėda, because Memel was thought situated at the mouth of the Nemunas.

The reverse inscription, "Nach 20 Jahr. Hassdiktat Zum Reich (20-Jahr being an abbreviation of "Zwanzigjahrigem"), translates "After the Hate-Dictation of Twenty Years back to the Reich." The Treaty of Versailles, called by many Germans the Dictation of Versailles, had separated Klaipėda from Germany in 1919.

The coat of arms of Klaipėda (Memel) had been created by the Teutonic knights, and at the beginning of the 15th century showed a larger tower flanked by two smaller towers. By the beginning of the 18th century it already was changed: the central gate tower was still there, but the two smaller towers were replaced by two beacons, which used to be built as signal posts on the beaches. The buildings and the boat were shown in gold against a red background; the water was blue.

This information about the coat of arms comes from *Informationen zur politischen Bildung* (A publication for German teachers) Wiesbaden, 1958. They name their sources.

I hope to have been of service.

THE KNIGHT Volume 10, Nos. 1 & 2, July-July and August-September, 1987. The official publication of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, Albion, Michigan, EDITOR. Robert J. Douchis, Columbia, MD, DIRECTOR. Subscription/membership to Volume 10: a donation of \$10 or more. Write: LNA, P.O. Box 612, Columbia, MD 21045. Editor's address: Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224. The LNA is a member of the American Numismatic Association C-117903.

Commercial advertising rates: Business card insert, \$5; or 6 for \$25 (save \$5). 1 Page: \$35; 1/2 page: \$20; 1/4 page \$15.

TYPEWRITER UPDATE

Dear LNA Members:

Since the last issue of The Knight when I explained the situation with my typewriter, we have received an overwhelmingly unanimous positive response from our membership that we should purchase a quality typewriter.

A few of you suggested buying a computer, etc., and suggested particular brands of either typewriters or computers.

We want to thank all of you for the generous contributions you made towards the purchase of a typewriter. Those \$5, \$10, and \$15 gifts added up, to where we are well on our way to the several hundred dollars needed.

At present the main goal is to have a quality typewriter to type up The Knight with. This involves having right-hand margin word spacing, different styles of type, etc.

Several of you suggested a typewriter that has the capabilities of plugging in to a computer if need be for the future.

All these suggestions are being considered carefully as this editor shops around before making a final decision. We can't afford a computer and (aside from the fact that I haven't used one yet) really what our original goal is for a typewriter to make The Knight look good.

You as readers know what The Knight is all about, and our extent of coverage. Some have written suggesting IBM or AT & T typewriters. Again, your suggestions are being considered.

Again, thank you for your contributions and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Frank Passic
Editor, The Knight.

900 S. Eaton St.
Albion, MI 49224

THE 1936 2 CENTAI COIN

1936 2 Centai

Y-10

Designer: Juozas Zikaras

Mint: Kaunas

Planchets: Brussels Mint

Weight: 2.3 gr.

Diameter: 18.5 mm.

Metal content: .950 copper,

.010 zinc

Mintage: 4,951,107

The 1936 2 centai coin is a Lithuanian coin which is easy to forget about--unless you are trying to get one for your collection.

OBVERSE: Circling the field is a stylized oat wreath. In the field, the inscription, "19 2 CENTAI 36." Fine denticles outline the perimeter. The edge is smooth.

REVERSE: The national emblem of Lithuania, Vytis, appears in the center, and below, "LIETUVA." The 1925 coins, you remember, had been inscribed, "Lietuvos Respublika," meaning Republic of Lithuania.

The 2 Centai was a "new" denomination, issued in 1936 to help alleviate the coin shortage of 1 centas coins. In his book (1953), author Aleksandrs Platbarzdis [a Latvian numismatist whose Lithuanian name translates "wide-bearded..."] stated the number of coins of each denomination in circulation. See Jonas K. Karys' Nepriklausomos Lietuvos Pinigai, p. 212. That chart gives the following information about the 2 centai coin:

1936: 95,000
1937: 1,665,000
1938: 2,695,000
1939: 3,620,000
1940: 4,020,000

It should be noted that the Kaunas mint had received 5 million 2 centai planchets from the Brussels Mint to strike them with. Jonas Karys, the mint director, mentions in his book that the seignorage was even with the expenses in producing the 2 centai coin; meaning it cost the Lith-mint 2¢ each to produce.

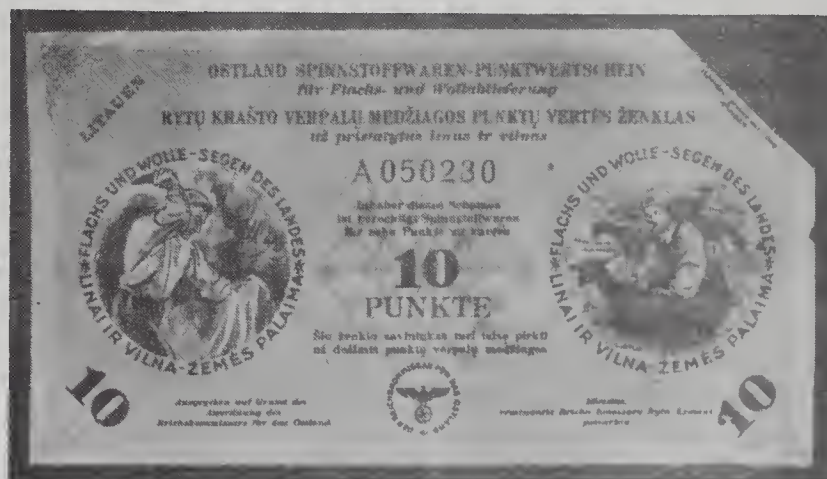


Despite Platbarzdis' figures, there is widespread belief that the 2 centai was not in high circulation as the 1 or 5 centai coins, but were rather distributed to the banks where the majority of them stayed. It is sort of analagous to the U.S. 50¢ piece and its acceptance today.

If you are a beginner in collecting Lithuanian coins and the entire 14 coin set, you may have noticed that the 2 centai can be quite difficult to get, despite the supposedly high mintage figure.

Current "Trends" in the Standard Catalog of world Coins gives the prices for each grade as: Fine: \$5; Very Fine, \$10; Extra Fine: \$15; and Uncirculated, \$35. These prices are in line, but just try and find one! The 2 centai coin is a "sleeper" that has been overlooked. In dealer price lists, you rarely see one offered in uncirculated condition, and almost never in groups of conditions. Usually a dealer has only one to sell.

10 PUNKTE NOTE



A few years ago we featured the "Punkte" ration coupon notes issued by Nazi Germany for Lithuania during World War II. Illustrated above is a 10 Punktė Lith. note, which is the only one we've seen. It bears serial No. A 050230, gives an expiration date of June 30, 1942, and uses the German text for the printers, "Lettlands wertpapierdruckerei, Riga." The note measures 135 x 75 mm., and is light blue. Notice it has been redeemed, as the corner is cut off. It is owned by Val Matelis.

4. THE KLAIPĖDA LIBERATION MEDAL STORY

Continued from page 1...

uania to have a usable seaport, this action was delayed for political reasons.

From 1919 through 1923 the Klaipėda Territory was under the military rule of General Dominique Joseph Odry and High Commissioner Gabriel Jean Petisne, who relied heavily on German administration. Fearing that France, whose troops occupied the territory, was entering into collusion to turn the seaport over to Poland, Lithuania's enemy, caused Lithuanian patriots to take military action.

Lithuanian national leaders realized it would not be in the nation's best interest to use its military force to invade Klaipėda. It was agreed that the Lithuanian government would officially not take any part in the liberation of Klaipėda, but would turn its head to whatever action was deemed appropriate by the Šaulių Sąjunga.

In January of 1923, LSS volunteers, under the command of Lithuanian Army intelligence officer Captain Jonas Budrys-Polovinskis, penetrated the Klaipėda Territory in guerilla-style, and on January 15, 1923, liberated the territory after token resistance by the French garrison.

On February 23, 1923, the Conference of Ambassadors accepted the "fait accompli" and agreed to relinquish title of the Klaipėda Territory to Lithuania provided the rights of the German minority were protected. This requirement was done through the adoption of a special statute that allowed the Klaipėda Territory to be governed under an elected chamber of representatives (Semelis).

To commemorate the liberation of Klaipėda, the Supreme Council of the Liberation of Lithuania Minor authorized the issuance of medals to all individuals that had taken part in the operation. The obverse of the adopted decoration was a shield shaped medal bearing the double-barred cross insignia of the LSS with the inscription, "Vyr. Maž Lietuvos Gelbėjimo komitetas." (translated earlier) In the upper portion of the shield appears another smaller shield with ribbon ring bearing the national coat-of-arms, Vytis (the knight).

The reverse of this decoration depicts the historical Klaipėda lighthouse landmark with an elk at its forefront. Inscribed about the lighthouse is the date of liberation: "SAUSIO 15 d. Klaipėda 1923 m." In the upper portion of the reverse is a smaller shield bearing the ancient coat-of-arms of the city of Klaipėda.

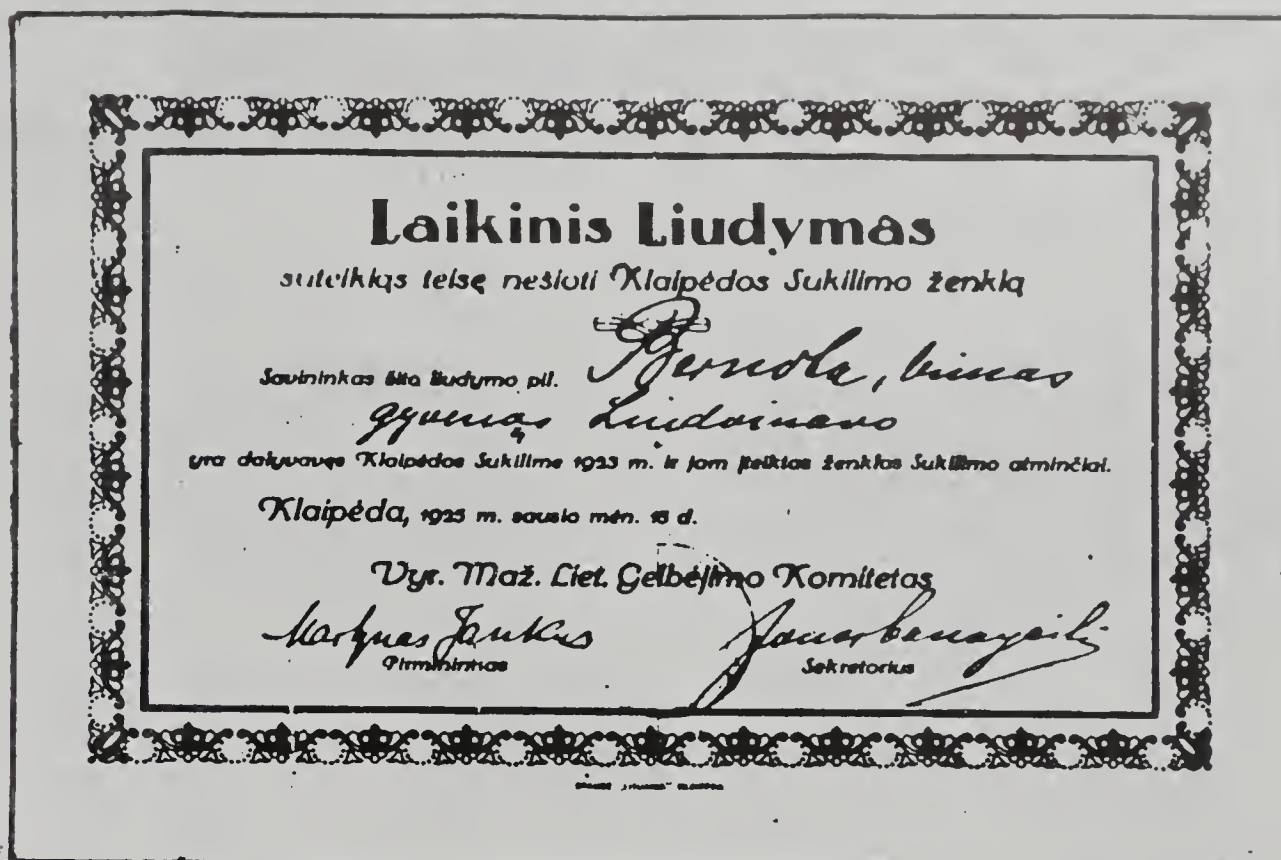


Klaipėda Liberation Medal, REVERSE.

Although the vast majority of these medals were minted in brass, a few were made in silver for special presentation to leaders of the Klaipėda liberation movement. The three striped colors on the ribbon utilizes the traditional LSS colors: Green, white, and red. Due to a poor quality dye, these colors are frequently found faded to a very light green, white, and orange on most surviving examples.

As is customary with Lithuanian decorations, the Klaipėda Liberation Medal was accompanied by an official certificate signed by Martynas Jankus, the president of the committee. An example of the Klaipėda Liberation Medal certificate and an accompanying document signed by the military commandant of the Klaipėda Territory forces certifying the recipient took part in the operation is illustrated with this article.

An examination of the history of the Klaipėda liberation movement, the design selected for utilization of the medal, the ribbon colors, and its recipients leaves little doubt that the Klaipėda Liberation Medal was intended as an LSS decoration. Since the Lithuanian government never officially admitted responsibility for the Klaipėda insurrection, it likewise could not have issued a decoration for the same reason. Although the Lithuanian



A Klaipėda Liberation Medal Certificate, awarded to Vincent Bernota, and preserved at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago.

government never made a place of honor for this decoration on its official list, the medal was worn proudly by its LSS recipients and was in turn accepted with the same respect by the Lithuanian people.

The Klaipėda Liberation Medal can be regularly seen on period photographs of members of the Lithuanian Army and LSS including those of General Stasys Rastikis, the former Commander-in-Chief of the Lithuanian Army, who was a silver medal recipient. These LSS volunteer recipients faced death before an armed military force, and execution as rebels if the insurrection failed. Though a decoration collector purist, like the Lithuanian government, might not recognize this medal in all definitions of the word, it was definitely a campaign medal of the LSS and its recipients were combat veterans of the Lithuanian Army.

<p>Klaipėdos kraštas Šilutės m. ir apskr. Komendantas 1923 m. sausio 18 d. No. <u>108</u> Šilutė</p>	<p><i>Liudymas</i> <i>Vincentas Bernota</i> <i>buvo prie Šilutės Krašto</i> <i>laikinosios savivaldybės</i> <i>1923 m. sausio 18 d.</i> <i>1923 m. sausio 24 d.</i> <i>Partijos narys.</i> Komendantas <i>[Signature]</i> Adjutantas <i>[Signature]</i></p>
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Klaipėda Territory Commandant's Certificate certifying that Vincent Bernota took part in the 1923 insurrection.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family of Stanley Balzekas, Sr., who passed away on May 7, 1987, at the age of 94. Balzekas Sr. had come to Chicago from Lithuania in 1912, and became a well known Chicago auto dealer. He was a past president of the Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce, and treasur-

er of the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, which was founded by his son Stanley Jr. in 1966.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd, Chicago, IL 60629.

LITHUANIAN COPPER SHILLINGS AND THEIR MINTAGES 1663-1667

BY: STASYS JANUŠONIS

Continued from last issue...

4

LDK KAUNO PINIGŲ KALYKLOS ATASKAITA

1665 m. spalio 17 d.—1667 m. sausio 15 d.

Originalas — Nežinomas.

Nuorašas — Ataskaita skelbiama iš kalyklos superintendanto Trakų Žemės teisėjo, LDK Žemės išdo raštininko ir Nemunaičio seniūno Mykolo Franciškaus Rosochackio ir tos kalyklos raštininko LDK Žemės išdo kontrolieriaus R. Bžoškevičiaus nuorašo, įteikto 1667 m. balandžio 2 d. Varšuvos seimo „Kvotos“ komisijos komisarams: IHB AH YCCP, I 5953, I. 397v.

Publikacija — Neskelbta ir nepanadota literatūroje.

Summariusz Roboty w Mennicy WXL Kowienskiej Począwszy ode dnia 17 8bris in A° 1665 az do dnia 15 Januarii w terazniejszy 1667 Roku

WYBITO	Funtų	Zlote	Gro- sze	Szela- gi	Z b y s z u		
					Zlote	Gro- sze	Szela- gi
Anno 1663							
die 17 Per 8brem	5 825	19 416	20	—	1 023	6	2
Per 9brem	12 567	41 890	—	—	2 054	25	—
Per 10brem	5 185	17 283	10	—	539	5	—
Anno 1666							
Per Januarium	14 618	48 726	2	—	2 264	12	2
Per Februarium	8 756	29 186	20	—	1 527	21	1
Per Martium	23 038	76 793	10	—	4 911	21	2
Per Aprilem	4 624	25 008	16	2	1 169	21	1
Per Maium	10 683	25 420	13	1	909	12	—
Per Junium	5 784	19 280	—	—	986	25	—
Per Julium	5 758	19 199	10	—	604	24	1
Per Augustem	415	1 383	10	—	23	1	2
Per 7brem	4 860	16 230	—	—	1 423	11	—
Per 8brem	7 495	24 983	10	—	2 075	10	—
Per 9brem	6 828	22 709	—	—	822	26	2
Per 10brem	5 634	18 780	—	—	2 149	21	2
Anno 1667							
do die 15 Per Januarium-a	2 711 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 038	10	—	837	29	2

Summa Summarum przez te Nr. 16 Mscy wybito Funtow. które niedowazyły groszow 100 Funtų czyni lego

Oboicy Summy tak z Funtow po gr. 100 kładąc iak y zbyszu in unum znioszsey czyni ZIP 448 648:6:1.

Jch M Pan Sędzia Ziemi Trocki-^c superintendant subslitto, JW Sekret. Trocki R. Brzozzkiewicz Pisarz.

-^a tekste klaidingai — Junium; -^b neteisingai apskaičiuota viršnormio suma. Turi būti — 23 324:—:17; -^c Trakų žemės teisėju buvo „Mikolay Franciszek Rosochacki Sędzia Ziemi. Trocki, Pisarz Skarbowy WXLitt. Starosta niemonaycki“ — Zr. CVIA, SA, 3259, I. 33.

SETTLEMENT FOR THE MINT OF THE
GRAND DUCHY OF LITHUANIA AT KAUNAS
June 4, 1664, to December 30, 1666.

Original--Unknown.

Copy: This settlement is published from copy of this mint's Comptroller, Superintendent Eustachius Kalavičius, and GDL National Treasury licensed secretary, David Stanislaus Ambrazevičius, presented in March, 1667, to the Warsaw Congress "Kvota," Commission. CE AN USSR, I 5953, I 408v-409.

Publication: Not published and not used in the literature.

(Polish) Due to the scrap, the weight had to be changed, 108 grašis to a pound instead of 100. Both sums were put into the count of overproduction. Signed by Land Judge Trocki, superintendent. R. Brzozzkiewicz, writer.

5

LDK LIETUVOS BRASTOS PINIGŲ KALYKLOS ATASKAITA

1665 m. gruodžio 4 d.—1666 m. gruodžio 16 d.

Originalas — Nežinomas.

Nuorašas — Ataskaita skelbiama iš kalyklos superintendanto LDK instigatoriaus Žemaitijos kašteliono Stanislovo Vincento Ordos nuorašo, įteikto 1667 m. balandžio mėn. 1 d. Varšuvos seimo „Kvotos“ komisijos komisarams: IHB AH YCCP, I 5953, I. 404v.—405.

Publikacija — Neskelbta ir nepanadota literatūroje.

Summariusz Connotathey Minnice W^aX^aL^o Brzeskiej

Anno 1665	Funtow miedzi	Zlotych	Anno 1666	Funtow miedzi	Zlotych
Erygowano Minnice, Gotowano Instrumenta, bójac się zeby bezemnie albo Dependenta mego niebito. Arendebal(?) przez ten czas ad diem 4 10bris			Januarius	95 200	329 268
			Februarius	110 930	390 697
			Martius	138 900	493 625 20
			Aprilis	59 060	293 986
			Maius	36 657	119 304 28: $\frac{1}{2}$
			Junius	41 500	136 703 19
			Julius	122 000	403 897 —: 2
			Augustus	67 180	157 023 7: $\frac{1}{2}$
			September	7 670	25 759 10:
			October	32 650	111 490 26: 1
Summa Mensium			November	9 621	33 349 3
Anni 1665			December	11 107	37 724 9: $\frac{1}{2}$
Decembris	71 990	247 526: 10	Summa Funtow	804 465	$\frac{1}{2}$
			Braku się nayduie funtow	2 224	$\frac{1}{2}$
			Wytraciwszy Brak Cziny Funtow	802 240	
			Rachuiąc funt po zl. 3: 10 czyni zl. 2 674 135		
			J ^o MP Zmudzki rozdawal Summariusz-a		

-^a įrašyta kita ranka

SETTLEMENT FOR THE MINT OF THE GRAND
DUCHY OF LITHUANIA AT BRASTA, December 4,
1665 to December 16, 1666.

Original--unknown.

Copy: This settlement is published from copy of the Mint Superintendent's GDL Instigator, Žemaitijos Chaplain (?) Stanislaus Vincent Ordo, presented April 1, 1667, to the Warsaw Congress "Kvota" Committee's Commissars: CE AN USSR I 5953, I 404v-405.

Publication: Not published and not used in the literature.

(Polish) Because the mint was overhauled, no production was made that year (1665). However, there was a small amount of coins left over from previous times. Production resumed again from January to December in the year 1666.

LDK LIETUVOS BRASTOS PINIGŲ KALYKLOS ATASKAITA

1665 m. gruodžio 4 d.—1666 m. gruodžio 16 d.

Originalas — Nežinomas.*Nuorašas* — Ataskaita skelbiama iš minėtosios kalyklos kontrolieriaus ir prisiekusiojo raštininko LDK Žemės ūdo raštininko Aleksandro Beinoro nuorašo, įteikto 1667 m. balandžio mėn. 1 d. Varšuvos seimo „Kvotos“ komisijos komisarams: LHB AH YCCP, I 5953, I. 398.*Publikacija* — Neskelbta ir nepanaudota literatūroje.Compendium wszystkich Summ w Mennicy W^oX^oL^o L^o Brzeskiej wybitych od zawzięcia roboty in A^o 1665 die 4 Xbris az do skonczenia oney in A^o 1666 diem 16 Xbris gdzie iako Summa Mensium tak y summa generalna totius temporis za pisarstwa mego Alexandra Beynara specificatur, vt infra

Anno 1665		Funt po groszy 100 czyni złotych	
Per Decembrem wybito funtow	71 990	239 966	20
Anno 1666			
Per Januarium wybito funtow	95 200	317 333	10
Per Februarium	110 930	369 766	20
Per Martium	138 900	463 000	—
Per Aprilem	59 060	196 866	20
Per Maium	36 657	122 190	—
Per Junium	41 500	138 333	10
Per Julium	122 000	406 666	20
Per Augustum	67 180	223 933	10
Per Septembrem	7 670	45 566	20
Per Octobrem	32 650	108 833	10
Per Nouembrem	9 621	32 070	—
Per Decembrem	11 147	37 156	20
Summa wybitych funtow czyni	804 505	Rachuiąc kazdy funt po gr. 100 czyni zł.	2 681 683 10

W tej robocie Mennicy Brzeskiej przez wysstek czas znalazło się Braku funtow 2 224 1/2, które funty wytrąciwszy w pomienionej Summy generalnej y funtow Nr. 804 505 zostanie dorachowania funtow 802 280 1/2 racuiąc po gr. 100 Czyni w Mennicy Brzeskiej wybitych pieniędzy

ZLP 2 674 268:10

Oddawano na Skarbu WXL in Aprilis JMP Beynarta Pisarza Mennicznego B^a—^a jrašyta kita ranka.

LDK LIETUVOS BRASTOS PINIGŲ KALYKLOS ATASKAITA

1665 m. gruodžio 4 d.—1666 m. gruodžio 16 d.

Originalas — Nežinomas.*Nuorašas* — Ataskaita skelbiama iš minėtosios kalyklos kontrahento T. L. Boratino patikėtinio, kalyklos administratoriaus Cyraus Bandinelio nuorašo, įteikto 1667 m. balandžio mėn. 1 d. Varšuvos seimo „Kvotos“ komisijos komisarams: LHB AH YCCP, I 5953, I. 406v.—407.*Publikacija* — Neskelbta ir nepanaudota literatūroje.Summariusz Connotatley Szelezney in Mincy WXL^o Brzeskiej, ktorym iako Summy Mensium tak y sama Generalna w jeden Comput ab Anno 1665 die 4 Decembris ad Annum 1666 diem 16 Decembris inclusive wybitych w teyze Mincy pieniędzy znesiona deducitur Summa

Summae Mensium Anni 1665	Funtow	Zlotych
Decembris	71 990	239 966 : 20
Summae Mensium Anni 1666		
January	95 200	317 333 : 10
February	110 930	369 766 : 20
Marty	138 900	463 000
Aprilis	59 060	196 866 : 20
May	36 657	122 190
Juny	41 500	138 333 : 10
July	122 000	406 666 : 20
Augusti	67 180	223 933 : 10
Septembris	7 670	25 566 : 20
Octobris	32 650	108 833 : 10
Nouembris	9 621	32 070
Decembris	8 882	29 608 : 10
Summa Summarum vtriusq. Anni : 802 240 1/2 :		274 135 ^{-a}
JeMP Bandinelli Rachunek Mennicy Brzeskiej ^{-b}		

—^a turi būti — 2 674 135; —^b jrašyta kita ranka.

SETTLEMENT OF THE MINT OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LITHUANIA AT BRASTA, December 4, 1665 to December 16, 1666.

Original--unknown

Copy--This settlement is published from copy of the cited mint's Comptroller and licensed secretary of the GDL National Treasury Secretary Alexander Beinoras, and presented on April 1, 1667 to the Warsaw Congress "Kvota" Committee Commisars: CE USSR, I5953, I, 398.

Publication--Unpublished and not used in the literature.

(Polish) In this period shortages were found so they had to weigh scrap metal and the finished product to reveal the total loss. The final total is shown on receipt from the Brasta mint.

SETTLEMENT OF THE MINT OF THE MINT OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LITHUANIA AT BRASTA, December 4, 1665 to December 16, 1666

Original--unknown.

Copy--This settlement is published from copy of the cited mint's Contractor T.L. Boratini's trustee, the mint's administrator, Cyrus Bandinelis, presented April 1, 1667, to the Warsaw Congress "Kvota" Committee Commisars, CA AN SSSR, I 5953, I 406v-407.

Publication--Unpublished and not used in the literature.

[To be Continued...]

Our Translators: Val Matelis, Lithuanian
Lucian Chojecki and Edward Muszynski,
Polish.

Next issue: Statistics from the Lithuanian mint at Marienburg!

Lithuanian Republic

By John Glynn
London, England

slow to issue currency

After World War I, a new Europe of independent states was created from the ruins of the old empires. In 1918 Lithuania and her Baltic neighbors Latvia and Estonia emerged as republics on the new map of Europe.

It took the new Republic of Lithuania more than four years from her date of independence, Feb. 16, 1918, to establish her own banking system and to replace the depreciated ost mark in circulation with her own currency. In early 1922 the government took steps to remedy this.

On Aug. 11, of the same year, a special law was passed to establish the Lietuvos Banka (Bank of Lithuania) in Kaunas, the capital. The bank was a state institution and acted as a bank of issue.

A new currency was introduced and was called "LITAS", containing 100 centu and was the equivalent to .0150468 grams of gold (one litas equalled one-tenth of the United States dollar).

The financial status of the bank was capital stock of 12,000,000 litas consisting of 120,000 shares of 100 litas per value. At that time the banks in Lithuania were mainly private enterprises, but all banking institutions were brought under the government control.

The Bank of Lithuania was granted sole rights to note circulation, one third of which must be covered by gold. Half of the share capital is held by the state. A gold reserve of 3,000,000 gold roubles received from Russia under the peace treaty was established.

The government then appointed Vladas Jurgutis, clergyman and politician as the Lietuvos Banka President, a position he held for the next seven years. Under his leadership the bank's main task was to organize and arrange the machinery for the new currency. The country was still without paper and proper printing facilities.

Arrangements were made for G. Hasse in Prague, Czechoslovakia, to print a set of permanent bank notes. Adomas Varnas, artist and designer of the notes was sent to Prague to supervise the operation.

In the meantime the bank arranged for a set of tempo-



Five-cent paper notes were among the first issues of the Bank of Lithuania, dated Rugseja (Sept.) 19, 1922, printed in Berlin by Otto Elsner.

rary notes to be issued until the permanent notes were ready. The bank went abroad again, this time to Otto Elsner in Berlin, Germany, to print a set of provincial bank notes. The notes were without serial numbers or series and were dated Rugseja (September) 19, 1922.

A month later the bank opened its doors to the public and issued its first paper money under the new currency reform. The provincial notes were in denominations of one, five, 20 and 50-cents plus one and five-litas.

The currency of ost marks, ost roubles, German marks and any other existing foreign currency were collected and exchanged at various rates, depending on what month the rate of exchange was made. The change-over could be made up to Dec. 31, 1922.

It took G. Hasse and Co. a year to complete the set of permanent bank notes which consisted of one, two, five, 10, 20 and 50-cents and one, two, five, 10, 50 and 100-litas. The date appearing on the notes was Lapkr (November) 16, 1922. The bank, however, replaced the provincial notes with the permanent issue in early 1923.

In 1925 the bank withdrew from circulation its fractional currency (cent to five-litai) and replaced them with coins minted in England. This was the first metallic currency issued by the new Republic of Lithuania. The Royal Mint in London produced the silver coins of one, two and five-litu, while the Kings Norton Metal Co., Birmingham, produced the copper-aluminum coins of one, five, 10, 20 and 50-centu.

Additional paper money was added over the years with the

bank going this time to Bradbury Wilkinson and Co. in New Malden, England, which issued in 1924, 500 and 1000-litu; 10-litu in 1927; 50 and 100-litu in 1928; and five-litai in 1929, the year Jurgutis resigned as president of the bank.

Vladas Jurgutis was born in the village of Joskaudai on Oct. 24, 1885, and attended school in nearby Palanga. He wished to become a clergyman and entered the seminary in Kaunas. He graduated with high honors in 1906, and was sent to the priest academy in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he received his degree in Master of Divinity.

In 1910 he went to Munich, Germany, where he studied social and economic science for three years. Between 1913 and 1918 he served as a priest in various churches in Lithuania and Russia.

In 1918 he returned home to take up the post as professor of a seminary in Kaunas. Later in the same year he gave up the priesthood to work for the national movement of the new republic. He entered politics and joined the Christian Democratic party.

He was elected to Parliament and served in the government as Minister of Foreign Affairs before becoming the first president of the Lietuvos Banka.

He resigned as bank president on Oct. 31, 1929, and took up the position of professor at the University of Vytautas The Great in Kaunas. While teaching he managed to assist the government as a member of the state council for finance and economic affairs.

In 1939 he received his degree of Doctor at Law.

The next six years were to change the course of history, when on Sept. 1, 1939, Nazi Germany, invaded Poland by land, sea and air. On Sept. 17, Soviet troops advanced across Poland's eastern frontier unopposed. The next day they occupied Vilnius (Wilno), Lithuania's old capital.

With Poland now captured and divided by the two ene-

mies of Lithuania (Nazi Germany and Soviet Union) they signed an agreement whereby the Baltic States came under the control of the Soviet Union.

On Oct. 10, Lithuania was forced into an agreement with the Soviet Union, which returned Vilnius to Lithuania and in return the Soviet Union could establish military bases on Lithuanian soil.

With Vilnius once again restored to Lithuania Professor Jurgutis became dean of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Vilnius. He held the position from 1940 to March, 1944 when he was arrested by the Nazis.

The Gestapo arrested the professor on grounds he refused to cooperate with the Nazis and his strong opposition of them on Lithuanian territory. He was sent to a concentration camp in Stutthof, near Danzig, where he remained until he was freed by the Soviet army in 1945.

Upon his release he returned to Vilnius in broken health and remained there until his death on Jan. 9, 1966.

Many notes issued from 1922 to 1929 have been signed by V. Jurgutis during his office as bank president. His signature can be found as the top signature on the lower left side of the 1922 issue, and in the center of all other issues. His signature appears on the following notes: 1922, (November) two, five, 10, 50 and 100-litu; 1924, 500 and 1000-litu; 1927 10-litu; 1928 50 and 100-litu; and 1929 five-litai.

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The Bank of Lithuania appears on the reverse of the 100-litu notes printed in 1928 in England by Bradbury Wilkinson and Co., New Malden. The blue note with green and red backgrounds measures 154 by 84 mm.



At left: 1921 photograph of Adomas Varnas (1879-1979), designer of Lithuania's 1922 "permanent" banknotes. Photo from the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture.

10. COINS AND MUSEUMS

By Zenonas Duksa

[From Tiesa newspaper, 9 June 1985, page 4. Zenonas Duksa serves as curator of the numismatic section at the Vilnius Ethnographic Museum in Vilnius, Lithuania. Article translated into English by Val Matelis]

Normally, numismatic collections are associated with museums. In truth, they are the greatest guardians of coins. However, the beginning of almost every museum's numismatic collection is connected with the surname of some one collector.

The valuables of museum, including coins, began to be collected in Lithuania as far back as the 17th century. In the 18th century, coins, medals, and the city archives were safeguarded in the Vilnius City Hall (now the LTOR Art Museum). A valuable numismatic collection was housed in two large oaken chests. In the first were 5808 coins, and in the second, 7444 coins and medals.

Vilnius University had a numerous numismatic collection. To start, it was composed of gifts from collectors. The collection was vigorously controlled by Prof. G.B. Grodecas and his student A.B. Jocheris. An interest in numismatics was also taken by Vilnius University Professors L. Lelevelis and I. Janilavičius. Their accumulated coins and medals added to the University's collection.

Prior to the first World War, Vilnius resident Antanas Bradauskas had gathered about 5000 numismatic units. This included the oldest Lithuanian founded and struck small change.

The well known student and archaeologist of Lithuania's past, Tadas Daugirdas in 1907 granted to the Kaunas Museum coins, found in Lithuanian hoards, as well as other coins and medals. In years after the war, the Vilnius historian E. Laucevičius became interested in Lithuanian numismatics and collected Lithuanian coins. A part of his valuable collection is safeguarded in the Historical and Ethnographic Museum "Aušra" in Šiauliai. Seven years ago, the collection of Povilas Karazis, well-known numismatic and cultural activist, was donated to the Scientific Museum of the University of Vilnius.



ZENONAS DUKSA

Valuable collections of the Vilnius Mint coins are housed in the M.K. Čiurlionis Art Museum [formerly the Vytautas the Great National Museum] at Kaunas, and in the VVU Science Museum. In the first, there are such rarities as the Sigismund August half-grašis, the satirical 1566 3 grašis, the 1547 6-grašis, and two 1565 talers. These latter coins are not found in any other museum in the world.

In the VVU Science Museum are located the 1547 obol, the 1566 satirical 3-grašis, and the 1547 and 1581 6 grašis. Thus have Lithuanian coins become high rarities. To my knowledge, these coins can be found in the Berlin National Museum also. Here also we find the 1547 ducat, the 1562 Portugaler, and a Spanish taler with Sigismund August's 1564 counterstamp.

The Cracow National Museum contains the 1508 half grašis and the 1548, 1563, 1564, and 1565 ducats, and other coins. The Warsaw National Museum--1556 grašis and the 1568 4-grašis with ornamented shields on the reverse. Here also under constant care is the 1580 Portugaler weight gold dollar. The Vienna Art Museum contains the 1564 half taler (unique) and the 1563 triple weight ducate, weighing 10.42 grams.

Coins from the Vilnius Mint can be found in the Dresden Art Cabinet of select coins. In the Gothic Castle Museum, Copenhagen, and in the Poznan National Museum, Poznan, are the 1594 3-grašis, struck on a 4-corner blank (klippe), while in the Munich State Museum, its coin collection at this time contains a 1565 gold 2-denar, weighing 3.38 grams. The Leningrad Hermitage also has Vilnius Mint coins.

Researchers of Ancient Greek or Roman history know well the work of the Famous Russian numismatist A. Orešnikov (1885-1933). He began to collect coins at 10 years of age, and later donated his collection to the University of

Continued on next page...

Moscow. Researching ancient coins, A. Orešnikov made many discoveries. His published works are important, not only to numismatists.

Similarly, D. Kapanadze (1898-1971) began his acquaintance with numismatic science. As a 12-year old gymnast, he was given by friends two old coins. Collecting, examining coins, and everything related to it, history, economics, paleography, metrology, heraldics--absorbed all his time and funds. Though in his youth, D. Kapanadze was unable to obtain specific instruction, interest in coins helped to fill in that lack. In 1948, D. Kapanadze became a candidate for historical science. After eight years, he defended his dissertation of science doctorate. Prof D. Kapanadze headed the Numismatic Section of the Grizia State University for many years.

All my life I will remember the late Švenčionėliai Region, Santaka Village native, Ignats Šilkinis and his stories and his museum set up in his attic, which told of the distant past of Švenčionėliai neighborhood.

And finally, which museums contain the most coins?

The most numismatic items are gathered in the Moscow Historical Museum (1,623,000 coins and medals) and in the Leningrad Hermitage (1 million).

The Prague National Museum contains about 750,000 numismatic items. The London British Museum Coins & Medals section has 650,000 specimens. The Vienna Art History Museum--500,000. Berlin Coin Cabinet, 450,000. The Paris National Library's Medals Section, over 450,000. The Kaunas M.K. Ciurlionis Art Museum has about 100,000 [Note: the collection was purchased from Dr. Aleksandrs Račkus in the 1930's], The Lithuanian TSR History and Ethnology Museum--69,000 metal and paper money and valuable papers.

[Editor's further notes: It should be mentioned further that after Dr. Račkus' collection was purchased by the Lithuanian government, there later were found to be many counterfeits in it.]

ODD AND CURIOUS MONEY OF THE WORLD

A COMPLETE REGISTER

Compiled by HOWARD D. GIBBS

Edited by HANS M. F. SCHULMAN

Drawings by BERTRAM NEWMAN

(MOST ITEMS LISTED AVAILABLE FOR SALE)

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BEGGAR MONEY. Small coins were issued in Lithuania in 1925, valued at about one-tenth cent. Citizens gave them to beggars, who, finding their "take" diminishing, agreed to destroy all pieces given to them. A committee met at the end of each day and threw all such coins into the Baltic. (See also Coins Of The World.) 1.00

—13—

xx408 LITHUANIA: Amber was used in trading with the Arabs, who paid in Silver Dirhems. These coins were melted into long bars of high grade silver about six inches long. These bars were then used in

—39—

buying wheat, furs and other commodities from the Russians who in turn CUT the long bars in half, each Duke stamping the halves with his coats of arms. This is the origin of the ruble which means "to cut." Lithuania bars are worth from \$100 to \$150. Stamped Russian Rubles from \$100 to \$500. The first "Skilling" also originated here, being a bronze ring with thick ends. Twisted neck rings or torques of bronze, silver and gold were used. See also "Beggar Money"

The paragraph about the so-called "Beggar Cents" was refuted by mint director Jonas K. Karys in his writings, which we published a few years ago in an article here.

It is obvious that the article on amber was influenced by the writings of Dr. Aleksandrs Račkus, who published articles in the 1930's on this subject. Račkus postulated that the word "shilling" and "penny" originated from Lithuania... (We'll have to reprint those articles here sometime. You'll find them quite interesting and "unique.")

12. ADS

WANTED: a 1 Mark Notgeld note from Tilsit (the one with the map on it), 1921. Peter Snulin, 645 Hayes Avenue, Washington, Pennsylvania 15301.

WANTED: 1968 silver medal of 3 Presidents of Lithuania (Franklin Mint), and 1974 Estonia--Gen. Laidoner 10 krooni. Peter S. Horvitz, 1115 Hedgerow Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19115.

NOTICE: The gentlemen who wanted back issues of The Knight copied, let them know and I will make some. Roland Martick, 21 Pearl St., N. Weymouth, MA 02191.

MAIL BID AUCTION:

1. Petras Rimša medal! Congress of Vilnius, 60 mm. (!) Bronze, with loop. ★
2. LITHR discus thrower "Čempionas", 1962 medal bronze 44 mm. in original box.
3. As above, but 2nd place award.
4. Lithuanian tourist pins from Trakai, Palanga, Klaipeda, Telšiai, etc. One is amber mounted.
5. COMPLETE SET of Y-1-14 Coins of the Republic of Lithuania in UNCIRCULATED except the Y-2 5 ct. 1925 which is XF. ★
6. Y-1 1925 1 ct XF
7. " " Unc with die crack!
8. Y-3 1925 10 Centų UNC
9. Y-4 1925 20 Centų XF
10. " " UNC
11. Y-5 1925 50 Centų VF
12. " " XF
13. " " UNC
14. Y-6 1925 1 Litaz UNC
15. Y-7 1925 2 Litu AU
16. " " UNC
17. 18. 19. 20. 1925 5 litai, VF, XF, AU, UNC
18. 1936 1 centas XF
19. " AU
20. " UNC
21. 1936 2 Centai UNC
22. 1936 5 Centai, UNC dark
- 23., 24. 1936 5 litai AU, UNC
24. 1936 10 Litu UNC
25. 1938 10 litu UNC

Write: LNA, P.O. Box 612, Columbia, MD 21045. Bids must be received 3 weeks from postmarked date of this issue. Send no money, but we will notify winners and you will then send money to the consignor who will send you the items.

Now is your chance to get the items you need for your collection!

LETTERS

Please enroll me as a member of the LNA. I have enclosed a donation of \$10 for a year's subscription. I am a beginner in the coin collecting hobby although I have been very interested in Lithuanian history for a long time.

---Robert Luddy, Greenbelt, Maryland

Since I don't have all the back issues, I don't know, but have you covered all the independence coins and currency issues in your "Feature of the Month" sections yet? If not, try to continue it.

---J.R. Greene, Athol, MA

[Editor's note: We try to provide a wide variety of items in the "Feature" article. We have covered about half of the coins and currency in this column.]

The Lithuanian military decoration articles are great stuff!

---Ron Martick, N. Weymouth, MA

To keep up this fine publication a new typewriter is a must!

---Robert Novak, Los Angeles, CA

I can't think of any two people in the LNA who deserve more thanks and compliments than Frank Passic and Bob Douchis. You two started the organization, and have nourished it up to date. If either of you would pass out, it would mean the end. Therefore, I wholeheartedly approve the giving of a new typewriter to Frank, whose singlehearted application to duty through all these early years can only be equalled by your own.

---Val Matelis, Coral Gables, FL

The purchase of a new typewriter is long overdue.

---Paul Rog, Minneapolis, MN

I hate to see the LNA buy a Japanese typewriter (Rather than an IBM) but go ahead.

---John Maske, Longmont, CO

I sent in my membership dues to the Latvian Numismatic Organization, and since some time last year I haven't received any publication from them. I wonder if they're still a going concern?

---Peter Shulin, Washington, PA

(Paid ad). Karl has been with us from the beginning. Why not write for his latest price list?



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